

Minutes of Amherst Fourth of July Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:30 p.m.
Johnson Room, Amherst Town Library

Attendees: Kim Ayers*, Peter Giannakopoulos*, Katherine Lockwood*, Christine Grayson*, Debbie Polatchek*

*Steering Committee Members

Call to order: Kim Ayers call the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

Minutes from December 2, 2021 meeting – Katherine Lockwood moved to approve the minutes as drafted; Peter Giannakopoulos seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

Parade Transition: Peter and Christine met with Jennifer to go over the check list of activities the Parade Chair must undertake in the months leading up to the parade. Tips, tricks and timelines were reviewed.

Float Coordinator: The committee needs to find a volunteer for this open position soon as this person coordinates voting on the parade theme which needs to be decided on no later than March. Other tasks include recruiting local non-profits and clubs to enter a float in the parade, putting together a group of judges to select which float will be awarded the Best Float trophy, assist the Parade Chairs the day of the parade in making sure the floats are in position for the parade, help keep the parade participants moving forward smoothly, etc.

Citizens of the Year Coordinator: This volunteer is in charge of contacting previous Citizens of the Year and encouraging them to participate in the parade. They will also need to coordinate transportation of these participants in the parade. In the past Citizen's of the Year rode in antique cars or in convertibles provided by community members.

Food on the 4th Coordinator: This volunteer will coordinate with Moulton's which is providing the grilled foods and pizza, procuring condiments, drinks, paper goods, coordinating with the Lions Club to borrow grills, recruiting and scheduling volunteers as cashiers, etc.

Food on the 3rd: It is the Lion's Club's turn to sell hamburgers and hot dogs for the fireworks this year. Kim will reach out and make sure they are willing to participate this year. The Committee will sell pizza from Sal's, drinks, ice cream and Italian Ice for fund raising.

Promoting Open Positions: We will employ a two-pronged approach. First, we will contact past 4th of July Committee volunteers and see if any of them are interested in taking over an open position or shadowing a position. Second, we will hold an open house on March 17 at the Library from 6:30 – 8:15pm to encourage community members to come and learn more about the volunteer positions. We will promote this via Social Media, Amherst Citizen, etc. Refreshments will be provided.

Glo Sticks: We sold out the glo sticks previously so more need to be ordered.

4th of July Website: Still working on scheduling a meeting with Craig to discuss future of the website.

Social Media: We plan to add a couple of the committee members as admins

Storage Locker: After some discussion with the town, the committee has decided to keep the 4th of July committee materials in a private storage locker so that we can have access whenever we need it.

Reading of the Declaration of Independence: In order to increase engagement by school kids it was proposed that we see if the 9th grade civics class teachers would be interested in awarding the honor of reading the Declaration of Independence on the green the morning of the 4th to one of the 9th graders at Souhegan. Katherine will reach out to some of the teachers and get their feedback on this idea.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, February 17 at 6:30pm in the Johnson Room, Amherst Town Library.

Adjournment – Kim Ayers moved to adjourn the meeting. Katherine Lockwood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.